



Across the Garden Fence . . . Karen L. Carlson



The children were safe! I'm sure everyone thought our children had been hiding in the barn all that time. But after the crowd had left and the ranch had returned to its accustomed quiet, we learned the rest of the story.

When they left the house, that fine spring morning, Kellie and Matt had wondered all the way to the highway, looking for buttercups. At that point, they remembered we had talked about an abandoned mine on the hill across the way, and despite our warnings never, never, never to cross the highway, they did just that!

Failing to find the mine, they continued to wander along the hillside paralleling the highway toward North Powder. Keeping far enough back so traffic could not see them, they of course couldn't hear us, either, as we drove and called.

By the time they reached Jimmy Creek, they were getting very tired. Their plan was to cross the creek, make their way over to

the Jim Scott Ranch, just on the other side and get a ride home.

However, Jimmy Creek was in flood and the foot bridge, a narrow plant, had been washed away. There was nothing to be done but to make their way back up Bidwell Hill and return home the way they had come.

Along about this time, traffic suddenly increased dramatically, an they could see people moving through the sagebrush. Every time a searcher came in view, the kids ducked under a sagebrush and hid like little bunnies! When they came to the highway, they waited until there were no cars in sight before rushing across and into the shelter of the sagebrush again.

Thinking back, I remember how much of that sage grew as tall as a man on horseback, and so dense, even cows could disappear like magic. It's no wonder, a couple of little kids had no trouble hiding in that kind of cover! The wonder is, that they were able to keep their bearings and head

straight for home!

When they finally reached the ranch buildings, cold, hungry, and very tired, they were stunned by the swirl of unaccustomed activity centered around the buildings. Cars and trucks filled the driveway and spilled out on to the county road. Police cars with lights flashing eerily in the dark. A helicopter hovered overhead, sweeping the hills with a spotlight. The ranch was aswarm with strangers. Badly frightened, they ducked into the barn, just as one search decided to make one last barn check. Fortunately, they bumped into each other at the barn door, or the kids might have actually spent the night huddled in the haystack! And we might have gone on searching.

Daughter Kellie will be home next week, and I can just hear her say "Aw Mom, why did you write about that?"

Well, it's just that this time of year, buttercups bring back so many memories.



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Auction time!



Auctioneer Justin Nedrow and spotter Pat McDonald follow the bidding at this year's Elgin Community Center Auction. Over \$7800 was raised, reports Scott Ludwig for Friends of the Community Center. The group has been working since January on gathering contributions. Funds will go toward two new stoves and a refrigerator for the kitchen, a Y2K compliant computer for the office and, possibly, a chlorine detector for the pool. Installation of a new fiberglass liner for the pool will start this week.

CITY OF ELGIN

NOTICE OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the City of Elgin budget committee will be held at the City Hall meeting room, 180 N. 8th, Tuesday April 27, 1999 at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the budget message and the budget document of the City, and to discuss the budget for the fiscal year July 1, 1999 - June 30, 2000. A copy of the budget document will be available for inspection at the City Office on April 27, 1999 between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. Any person may appear at the meeting to discuss the proposed programs with the budget committee. There will be additional meeting times as needed by the budget

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